The Prison Mental Health Service: From Facts to Fantasy

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Queensland Forensic Mental Health Service
Southern and Central Zones

The Plan

- The Background
- The Facts
- The Science
- The Numbers
- The Problem

- The Question
- The Answers
- The Reality
- The Fantasy
- Lawyers
The Background

QUEENSLAND FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE (QFMHS)
Southern and Central Area HS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL TEAMS (Geographical allocation)

COURT LIAISON SERVICE (CLS)
A psychiatric CL Service to the Brisbane Magistrates Court and Brisbane City Watchhouse

COMMUNITY FORENSIC OUTREACH PROGRAM (CFOS)
Specialist Tertiary Consultation Forensic Service to District Mental Health Services

PRISON MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM (PMHS)
Mental Health Services delivered by QFMHS to 7 Correctional centres in South East Queensland

HIGH SECURITY INPATIENT PROGRAM (HSIS)
61 bed Mental Health Hospital in a high security perimeter
The Facts

"On any given day there are 5,400 prisoners in Queensland”

“prisoner numbers are forecast to grow by a further 90 percent by 2015.”

Police & Corrective Services
The Hon. Judy Spence MP
November 30, 2006
The Facts
Australian Prison Population

- 27,224 (30 June 07) in custody
  - 24% Indigenous
  - ¾ of all prisoners in NSW, Qld, Vic
  - 93% male
  - 70% aged between 20-39

- 169 /100,000
  - ♀ 24/100,000 vs ♂ 401/100,000
  - ♂ 312/100,000 vs ♂ 4159/100,000

- Past 10yrs ↑~ 42% (15% Aust populn)
  - 127 to 169 prisoners/100,000 adults
The Facts
Australian Imprisonment Rates
per 100,000 population

Fremantle Jail - Perth

(a) Rates per 100,000 adult population.
The Facts
Female Prisoners

- 1994 – 2004 - ♂↑ 40%    ♀↑ 101%
The Science
Mental Disorders in Australian Prisoners v Community (Butler et al, 2006)
The Numbers

- ~ 25% will need specialist Ψ services
- ~ 10% will be psychotic
## The Numbers
### April 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prison</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Bed State</th>
<th>PMHS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGCC</td>
<td>GEO</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borallon</td>
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<td>QCS</td>
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<td>Woodford</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darling D</td>
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<tr>
<td>BWCC</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap CC</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>~75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary CC</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4375</strong></td>
<td><strong>957</strong></td>
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The Problem for Mental Health Services

- ~300 psychosis
- ~200 anxiety
- ~100 depression
- >1000 people on psychiatric medication
- Comorbidity
- Legal circumstances
- Barriers to treatment
The Problem

● Triage ~ 4000 yr
  ● ~ 60 New cases / mth
  ● ~ 60 releases/ mth

● Release from Prison
  ● 60% <3mths
  ● 70% <2yrs
The Problem
Barriers to Treatment

- Security vs Health
- Getting In
- No Involuntarily Treatment
- Tracking People
- Movement, MSU’s, Protection
- Suicide Cells
- Medication
  - No-one to monitor, often officers
  - Discharge
The Question

- How do we as community address this problem?

- How do we as Qld Mental Health Services address this problem?
The Answer

- Do Nothing
- District MHS manage their patients
- Develop and support a “in-reach” MHS
Staff in 2004
Staff in 2005
The Reality

PMHS Brisbane Team

● 3.2 X Psychiatrists
● 4 X Senior Allied Health clinicians
● 6 X Allied health Clinicians working on transition
● IMHW
The Reality
Mental Health Care for those in Custody

Assessment & Treatment
1. Care while in custody
2. Diversion to health
3. Transitional care to the community
The Reality
1. Care in Custody

- Accept & Triage every referral
- Open → Medical management
  - Case Co-ordination
  - Hospital if needed
  - Psychological Treatment
  - Psycho education Programme
  - Family education
  - Training DCS
  - Release Planning
  - Transitional Case coordination
What we don’t do

- Involuntary treatment in prison
- Expert opinion reports on open patients
- Compromise independence
The Reality
who we see

- 85% ♂ 15% ♀
- 13.4% Indigenous
- 37% remand 63% sentenced
- 72% Prior MHS contact

Open Cases By Age and Sex
The Reality

who we see

[Bar chart showing percentages for different categories: Psychotic, Anxiety, PD, Sub Use, Depression, BPAD, Other]
The Reality
Co morbidity

The chart illustrates the percentage of co morbidity across different categories. The categories are labeled as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5+. The percentage values range from 0% to 35%, with peaks at 35% for the 1 category, 30% for the 2 category, and gradually decreasing for the 3, 4, and 5+ categories.
The Reality
2. Diversion

- Diversion to health
- Forms
  - Recommendation
  - Custodial agreement
  - Agreement for Ax
- Who & Where
The Reality
3. Transition to the community

- Difficult Period for all esp. mentally unwell
  - Social adversity
  - ↑ suicide rates (8.5♂, 36♀ Pratt, Lancet 2006)
  - ↑ recidivism
  - ↑ homelessness
  - ↑ substance use relapse
  - Very few $ spent on post release programs
The Reality
3. Transition to the community

- Health Planning
  - Appointments
  - Letters
  - Co-ordinate health agencies

- Biggest challenge – knowing when people are released
The Fantasy

- A prison assessment is as good as a hospital
- People’s mental health is static
- Psychotic people refusing treatment can be safely managed in prison
- People in custody have less right to treatment than others
Lawyers

- Refer if mental health concerns
- Treating Doctors letters
- Fitness for Trial
- Involuntary Assessment
  - Justice Examination Order
  - Emergency Examination Order
  - Recommendation & Request
  - Court Assessment Order
  - Classified Patient
- Involuntary Treatment Order
References to Mental Health Court

Person may be referred:

- if an indictable offence
  + Simple Offences
  - Reasonable cause to believe mentally ill at time
  - OR intellectual disability of such degree that
    issues of Unsoundness of Mind *
    and Fitness for Trial
    should be considered

* if murder, also Diminished Responsibility
References to Mental Health Court

Reference may be made by

- The person or legal representative
- The Attorney-General
- The Director of Public Prosecutions
- The Supreme or District Court
- The Director of Mental Health

Effect of Reference:
Suspension of criminal proceedings until determination by Mental Health Court
Queensland Prison Mental Health Service

- Ed Heffernan & Robert Pedley
- Phone - 3271 8729
- PMHS
  The Park – Centre for Mental health
  Locked Bag 500
  Richlands Qld, 4070